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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 400. FEBRUARY, 1940.

THE MASTER. THE CHURCH LIBERAL CHRISTIANITY.

"One Lord, One Faith, One God and Father of all."—EPH. IV. 5, 6.

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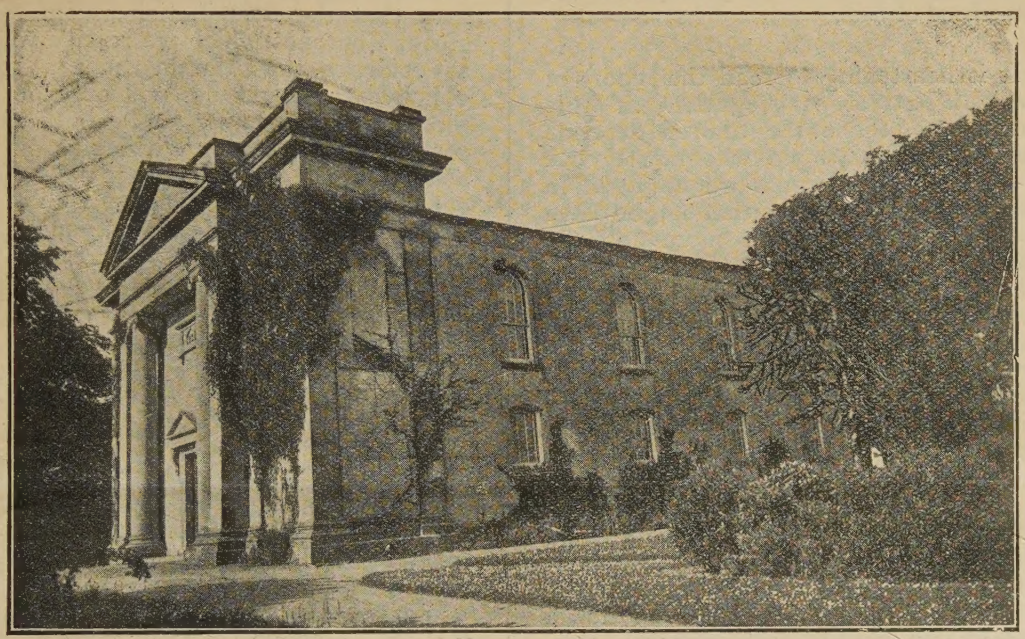

COMBER NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
FIRST OPENED FOR WORSHIP ON MARCH 1ST, 1840.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Centenary of our Comber Congregation will be celebrated next month, when we hope to devote ample space to such an auspicious occasion. From that centre many eminent and influential names have been recorded in Irish history. To-day it remains the heart of a strong spiritual life, the power of which broods over the country-side. A splendid list of fine cultured people as members, a bright happy Sunday school, and other activities, the hope of the future and a source of strength and help to our Irish churches; held in the highest esteem by all denominations in the locality, the hearts and memories of hundreds, near and far, will turn to it in gratitude.

* * *

We are warned against complacency and over-confidence by our country's leaders. Hitherto the war has been on the sea and in the air, and there is deep need for thankfulness that the blockade against us has not

been as effective as planned for. The full fury of the blast has not yet broken on the land, but the testing may suddenly come for us all. We know what that has meant in other countries. War is a stage in human evolution; but it is a stage to be outgrown, and if the world had learned the divine wisdom, war would have ceased to be. But, if the fear of God, reverence for sacred things and all that that means, diminishes, and indifference and ignorance takes its place; to stop the wreck of civilization and the downward swerve into the blackness of barbarism, the world must be roused to effort on the side of Light, Life, Love, Brotherhood, for the hall-mark of the adversary is the contempt poured forth on the Universal Brotherhood of Man, which is as basic a principle as the Fatherhood of God.

* * *

It is heartening to read the report of the York Street congregation in this number. Since the Church depends entirely on its people who mostly live at long distances and are engaged in war work no congregation might have been expected to suffer more and the Church works under the constant anxiety that if its many activities suffer at all it means a debt which there would be little hope of liquidating as hardly any more could be done than is being done. The amount contributed by the members per head far exceeds that in any other Church we have heard of in our denomination at least, and there are no bazaars or sales of work and space prevents much being raised by social activities. Instead of falling back the Church has forged ahead once more and with reports of hadly diminished attendances elsewhere those in York Street are as good as ever despite the difficulties. We do not profess to know why some Churches succeed in the face of every obstacle while others fail when everything seems to favour them, but it is certain that success does not come without effort, and the effort in York Street has imposed a great strain on both minister and people for many years. We sincerely hope that the present appeal which is intended to ease it somewhat and secure the Church when it may be no longer possible will succeed beyond expectations. We wonder what the feelings of some of our Church Committees would be if they were told that henceforth they would have to manage on the stipend and collections of their people entirely or close down. York Street has not only had this to do but it has had to remove a debt and find hundreds of pounds for re-building and moreover gather a congregation as well, and it has done it while contributing generously to all claims made on it while its hospitality is a bye word. It is only now and for the future that we are being asked to help in this one work of church extension in our midst after it has succeeded beyond the dreams of the most optimistic amongst us with less aid than has often been given to an old Church for repairs. We are sure that the contributions from some of our Churches which we rejoice to see as evidence that the missionary spirit still lives amongst us, will only be the forerunners of many more both from congregations and individuals. We hear that the new roof has now been entirely paid for and some money invested already and everything now given goes to secure the future and will pass directly into denominational funds in the event of York Street being unable to continue which will depend as much on the success of the present appeal as on any other factor.—[Ed.]

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The N.S.P. Church, as such, is not responsible for any opinion or declaration in this magazine, by whomsoever expressed, unless contained in an official document.

* * *

March, 1940, number published on Saturday, February 24th. Copy sent in before 17th February, will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. J. Shaw Brown, 1 Greenmount Avenue, Manse Road, Bangor.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

REPORTS.

Ballyhemlin.—On Sunday, January 7th, the Sunday School prizes were distributed after service, in the Session Room, by F. M. Allen, Esq., Munsquarter.

Ballyclare.—On Thursday afternoon, December 28th, the annual prize distribution and Sunday School party was held in the Schoolroom. There was a full attendance of scholars and their pals with a representative number of grown-up members of the congregation to assist in the entertainment. This duty was not onerous, however, as the children, in the hilarity of the Christmas season, provided their own amusement. After a most enjoyable tea book prizes were distributed by Miss Harson, and, this year, eleven of these books contained a book-mark—special prizes for full attendance. This year's attendance has proved a record one in the recent history of the Sunday School. Santa Claus paid a visit to the schoolroom, as usual, and from a well-filled sack produced a much-treasured gift for all the young folks. Music was supplied by Mrs. Moore, A.L.C.M., who has always gave of her best.

Killinchy.—A Sunday School party and prize distribution was held in the Schoolroom on Tuesday, 19th December. There was a good attendance of scholars, parents, and members of the congregation. The party commenced at 7 o'clock with games, then followed tea served by the S.S. teachers and friends. Prizes numbering 34 for attendance were distributed by the minister, Rev. A. M. Bell, B.A. A programme followed consisting of songs by the children; glees by the choir accompanied by Miss Russell; recitations by Mrs. H. Morrow; mandolin selections by Miss Mary McClemens, and a children's play, "The Chestnut Man," by pupils of the Ardmillan P.E.S. The stop-watch competition, organised by the Church committee, having been concluded, the watch was unsealed. Mr. Frank Kirk, Killyleagh, was declared the winner. Santa Claus next made his appearance, and from his sack every child got a gift. Special thanks are due to the Rev. A. M. Bell, who organised the games and kept the fun going, and Mr. Frank Osborne, who assisted him, also the ladies who provided the tea. The evening was brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" in the usual hearty way.

Crumlin.—The Annual Party and Christmas Tree took place at Crumlin, on December 19, and whatever was happening in other parts of the world there was certainly Peace and Plenty at the Party. The familiar figure of Father Christmas was missing but in his stead came the Fairy of the Sunset (Miss Josie Thompson) a child's dream come true, arrayed in sunset blue and pink, with silver wand and head-dress surmounted by the Evening Star. On her decorative waggan she brought a gift for every child, which she distributed after singing a charming song of Fairlyand. The evening was further spent with merry games, and crackers, and the consumption of apples, oranges and sweets, without which no Christmas party is complete. Many thanks are due to the kind friends who so generously subscribed towards the cost of the party, to the ladies who provided such a pre-war tea, to the adult Church members whose presence helped to make the evening such a success, and to Mr. George Aicken for procuring and transporting the magnificent tree, which was afterwards sent to Sande's Home, Aldergrove.

Ministers' Conference. — The 356th Conference was held on Tuesday, January 2nd, at the Orpheus Restaurant, York Street, Belfast. The host was the Rev. Henry Hall, of Downpatrick. An exposition on "They have eaten sour grapes," was given by the Rev. John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., of Newry, and was up-to-date, followed by a lively discussion. The meeting was well attended.

All Souls', Belfast.—The services in the Crypt are at 7 p.m. £4, result of a small Military Whist Drive has been handed in, to meet the cost of repairs to the church and hall, bringing the fund up to £57 13s 0d, leaving £18 yet to be made up. Children's special service was held on Sunday morning, January 14th. Women's League will be resumed on January 29th at 3 p.m. Young People's League has begun its

meetings in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street. A previous dance by our own young people was very successful and another is announced on Wednesday, January 31, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., subscription, 1/6. Badminton has been resumed.

Men's League.—The monthly meeting of the Belfast Chapter was held in the Mission Hall, on January 12th, 1940. The Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., D.D., President, occupied the chair, and after the usual business matters of a general nature were discussed. Mr. W. Christie then gave his promised address on "The Development of the Human Race" from which it was evident that he had applied himself to the subject with his customary thoroughness, he briefly pointed out the phases through which the Human Race had passed and suggested how further developments would probably come.

The Rev. Osborne Rowland made a most kindly and admirable host, and the hospitality of himself and his lady helpers was greatly appreciated on such a bitterly cold night. The February meeting will take place in the York Street Hall, on the 9th inst., when Mr. John Radcliffe has willingly undertaken to give a paper entitled "Diplomacy" and we are looking forward to this date with pleasurable expectation. Come and you will not be disappointed!

Holywood. — The annual Sunday School Party and Christmas Tree was held on Friday, January 5th, when about sixty children had tea in the school - room, afterwards playing games, singing carols, and songs. There was also a display of indoor fireworks, after which Father Christmas was seen near the Christmas Tree, forty of the younger children receiving a gift from him. Children who had attended regularly received book prizes, Rev. C. J. Montgomery distributing thirty-five in all. Two special prizes of wristlet watches were presented to Josie Patty, senior girl, and Jackie Patty, senior boy, for good work and regular attendance during the whole of their time in Sunday School.

Women's League. — The quarterly meeting of the Ulster District was held in the Central Hall, Belfast, on January 16th, at 2-45 p.m. The opening service was conducted by Mrs. Wilde, and Mrs. Taylor was the accompanist. Miss Margaret Patterson, of the Belfast Girls' Club Union, 6 Adelaide Street, gave a very interesting talk on her work in connection with the formation of outdoor games, sports, and keep-fit classes for working girls. The Union would be glad to hear from people willing to act as instructors, or who have rooms or halls which could be used for classes. Miss Patterson has had experience as a worker with the Western Canada Sunday School Van Mission, and her account of this work gave much pleasure to the large number of members from many branches who attended the meeting. Tea was provided by members of the First Church branch. The President of the District, Mrs. G. Gardiner, B.A., was in the chair.

Belfast, York Street.—In spite of the distances at which our people live and the loss of most of those who used to come by car, the number in the services and working overtime and fog and the "black-out" we are delighted to be able to report that there is no appreciable falling off in our attendances on Sunday evening. On the last night of the old year the church was full and we were glad to welcome our men home on leave, uniforms were to be seen everywhere. The watchnight service has become a tradition in York Street. In view of the fact that there would be no trams we feared that the custom would be broken. Dr. Agnew, however, announced his intention of staying even if only a few remained and the result was that about eighty members did so, some even coming direct from work. The service was even more impressive than in former years and deeply moving to some of our older members.

The annual report now being prepared has already disclosed that the Church has not only advanced once more but that the advance has been greater than usual. The membership is considerably increased and the stipend has reached the figure of £350. Collections including the Fellowship amount to about £180. Including their contributions to the Building and Endowment Fund members have con-

tributed about £700 directly to the Church this year without counting an increased contribution to the Orphan Society, the General Assembly and the Sustentation Fund and other charities and there is a balance in hand at the end of the year. Under these circumstances some of our friends cannot see why we are appealing to other Churches apparently less well off than ourselves. The answers are surely simple enough. We have scarcely any income beyond what our people give. We have not only to maintain a Church but we have had to spend over £2,000 on it, £450 in this past year alone in addition to clearing it of debt. Our position has been reached by a supreme effort on the part of our people who are no better able to attend their Church and give to it than the members of any other and it cannot continue. Churches which do not make an effort are told that they do not deserve help but apparently when a congregation makes an effort which has never been equalled in our denomination and manages to hold its own it is then told it does not need help. Apparently there is something to be said for the common idea that it is better for a Church to be in debt. Our own people know the situation better than anyone and they are struggling to add every shilling that can be added to our scanty reserves while it is possible. Prices are rising even during the war and we have grave fears of what may come after. It is certain that our members will not be able to continue as they are doing and we have nothing to fall back upon, and we shall see the spectacle of another Non-Subscribing Church on which so much has been spent closing down even with a good congregation for the want of a little from the many who profess a desire to see some progress amongst us, and this when every other denomination is spending thousands of pounds on church extension. We have done all that we can in York Street in years of unemployment and difficulty. We have cleared a Non-Subscribing Church completely of debt and made it a new one with a fine congregation and it now rests with the denomination to say whether they will allow a Church that has practically been given to them to be lost while others are building new ones and sacrificing to do it.

We are delighted to be able to report that Antrim and Clough have given generous donations. The First Church, Newry, Greyabbey and Newtownards and others have promised to help. We appreciate the spirit even more than the help received. The fund has now reached over £600 of which about £150 has been given by members of the denomination by a very few most generous donors.

We were glad to have the Young People's League and the Men's League with us recently. Small tokens were sent to all our men on service at Christmas. We are glad to hear that they have almost all endeavoured to visit Unitarian Churches when they could. It will be interesting to our friends to know that the Ulster item in the Empire broadcast on Christmas Day was contributed by our popular Church officer, Mr. James Gray with his wife and son from their own home, while the script was written by another member, Mr. Thomas Carnduff.

Our progress this year has been as much due to the loyalty of our older members as to the enthusiasm of new ones. Many of them have increased their contributions and it is amazing to see some of those advanced in years faithfully in their places often twice on Sunday and on nights when many do not care to venture in the streets. Few Churches in Belfast have maintained their full evening congregations as we have done so far and not many are so scattered. We are entering now on our Centenary year and perhaps our most critical, but whatever may befall, we know that we can depend on the loyalty of our people at least.

Young People's League. — The January meeting of the Young People's League was held on the 19th ult., in the Central Hall, Belfast, when a lecture on "Poetry and the Poets" was given by the Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc., to a large audience of young people and friends. The lecture was illustrated by readings from various poems and a scene from Shakespeare's "Othello" given by Miss E. Early, Miss A. Mc Kelvey, Mr. A. Corbett, Mr. Eric Early and Mr. N. Castellano. The League were honoured by a visit by

Miss Adelaide Beattie, one of Ireland's leading sopranos, and her accompanist, Mr. Frank Capper. With Mr. Capper at the piano, Miss Beattie rendered two groups of poems set to music. First a group of Elizabethan Lyrics set to music by Dr. Arne, Haydn and Purcell, and secondly some more modern songs with music by Quiller, Martin Shaw, Hardebeck and Ley. We are very much indebted to these two accomplished musicians and our best thanks are due to them. Also we must thank very heartily Mr. T. H. McMurray of the First Church through whose generosity the meeting enjoyed a cup of tea.

Banbridge.—Our annual party, in spite of the "black-out," and cold, though not so large as usual, was a real jolly affair. A lovely, much appreciated tea, games, prize distribution, and gifts from Father Christmas were the order of the evening. Mr. George Hezlip deputised for Father Christmas, introduced by Mr. Willie MacNeill. No need to emphasise that the toys and useful articles that Father Christmas handed out in a Christmassy cherry way were received in the same spirit and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Church committee for its generosity.

Then Miss McKeown, Superintendent of the Sunday School, took charge of the prize distribution. At the outset she referred to the absence of the minister, confined to the Manse with a cold, saying how much he was missed and how much he wanted to be there on such an occasion. She congratulated the Sunday scholars on their loyalty to their school in good attendances; and called on Miss McCaw, who graciously handed the books and Bibles to the happy recipients. Special mention must be made of Doreen Radcliffe, who never missed a Sunday and of her sister Peggy, who only absented herself once, and a bad cold was the cause of that one miss. The next on the list were May Derby, Fred Martin and Stanley Matchett. The League of Loyalty prizes for very high attendance at the Sunday services were awarded to Doreen and Peggy Radcliffe, Evelyn Godding, Fred Martin and Stanley Matchett. The Minister's Bible class prizes were awarded to the Misses Gretta Stevenson, Elsie Martin, Florrie Lyons and Tommy Lyons. Miss McCaw, when thanked for her services said she only wished the Sunday school was much larger!

Nobody seemed to want to go home but at last a chord was struck and all joined in singing (and swaying) "Auld Lang Syne," followed by "God Save the King."

Our Young People's League held a very successful whist drive and dance resulting in a cheque to the Comforts Fund of £11, which of course was gratefully acknowledged by the local authority.

First Church, Belfast—The Women's League and Junior Women's League continue to meet weekly, and are engaged in the knitting of comforts for men in the Forces. Several parcels have been despatched to collecting depots. The Discussion Circle has held two meetings during the past month. On December 31st, Captain Trench (a visiting speaker) gave a very interesting and challenging address on "The Age of Science and the Religion of the Spirit"; while on January 14th, Mr. J. Laird read an informing and interesting paper on "The Breath of Life." These meetings take place at 3 o'clock on alternate Sundays, and tea is afterwards served so that members are spared the need of travelling home and then back again for the evening service in Church. The Circle also arranged a dance in the Central Hall, on January 13th. A very enjoyable time was spent by some eighty people, Mr. J. Laird acting as M.C. It is with real regret that the Circle has had to accept the resignation of Miss Evelyn Ellis as Secretary, consequent upon her entering the nursing profession. She has served the Circle since its inception with outstanding ability and thoroughness, and has herself contributed much to the happy and friendly spirit that activates its meetings. We rejoice to know that she will still hope to come amongst us as an occasional visitor. Owing to war and black-out conditions the normal Christmas-time activities have this year been curtailed; but the Junior scholars were entertained at the Manse on December 29th; the Minis-

ter's Morning Class and Mrs. Ernest Hamill's Senior Class on December 30th; and the Church choir on January 20th. We regret to record the death of Miss Clara Manderson, on December 20th. She came of a family that has been prominently associated with our churches for many years. Miss Manderson was the youngest daughter of the late John Manderson, of "Ravenhill," Crumlin. She was interred in the Churchyard at Crumlin on December 22nd. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family.

Moneyrea.—The Christmas Party of the Sunday school was held on Saturday evening, December 16th, in the Old School. Proceedings began with a substantial tea for the children, after which the Christmas Tree was stripped of its glittering array of presents. Book prizes were presented to the scholars for good attendance during the year. Two scholars, Dorothy McCullough and Moore Johnston were specially mentioned for their excellent record for the last five years. The former is entitled to a silver medal and the latter to a special book prize. Following the prize-giving, the children joined together in playing games under the direction of Messrs. G. Doyle, S. Girvan and R. Smith, to whom the best thanks of the Sunday school committee are hereby given. All the arrangements were made by Miss R. Kennedy, assisted by Mrs. McCartney, and Miss E. Dempster.

The ladies of Moneyrea and district are working very hard knitting comforts for those who are serving with H.M. Forces. With the object of raising funds to purchase wool, etc., a successful concert was held by kind permission in the Lyttle Memorial School, on Friday evening, 22nd December. There was a crowded audience, extra seating having to be provided for those who attended. Rev. J. D. Davies presided. The programme began with pianoforte selections by Miss M. M. Bell. Vocal solos were rendered by Miss McCready, Mrs. J. K. Murphy, and Mr. W. L. Doggart. Recitations were given by Miss K. Frame, and Mr. W. Carlisle, and Tap-dancing by the Misses Jean Davidson and Sally Stewart. Every item was very much enjoyed and every artiste had to respond to encores. The two sketches, "Peace and Quietness," and "The Whitewashers," caused great amusement, and were very well done. Those taking part were—Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Davies, Miss Lappin, Mr. James Frame and Mr. J. J. Stewart. Thanks are due to Messrs. James Frame and J. J. Stewart, for organising the concert which was an unqualified success.

A social and dance was held in the Old School, on Friday evening, December 15th, in aid of the Comforts Fund. There was a full attendance in spite of the black-out, and the proceedings of the evening were most enjoyable. The organisers, Messrs. F. Maxwell and Edward Fisher, are to be congratulated on the success of their effort.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The following are the subjects for the Essay Competition for 1940:—

1 "Give in your own words the Parable of the Talents."

2. "What I like best about my Sunday School, and why?"

3. "The life and character of Joseph."

4. "How I can best serve my Church?"

5. "How Sunday Schools began."

6. "God make my life a little light." What does this hymn mean and teach?

Essays are to be written on one side of paper only.

The name, age, and the Sunday School the competitor attends are to be written on front page, which must contain nothing else. Commence the Essay on the second page—front page to be detachable.

Essays of competitors over twelve years of age must be of not less than 500 words.

Essays are to reach me not later than Thursday, 16th May, 1940.

REV. W. HOWARD-PAYNE,
"Durnish," Balmoral, Belfast.

Once, when the Buddha was insulted by a man in the crowd, he turned to the speaker and said: "Friend I have no need of thy gift; I return it, to be to thee, a hell of misery."

OBITUARY.

——:o:——

Mr. Henry Burns, Burnside, Ballycarry.

We have lost two old members of our Church by sudden and unexpected death. On Saturday, the 6th of January, there were interred in the graveyard here, the mortal remains of Mr. Henry Burns, farmer, of Burnside, Ballycarry. Only three days previously he was in his usual health and in the evening had decided to call on a neighbour, a few minutes' walk from his home. It was during the black-out while crossing the road that he was struck by a motor car, carried on to its bonnet for a short distance and then thrown off. Mr. Burns was a big and heavily-built man and naturally he received a severe shock. But beyond a few external injuries which were slight, he did not appear to be otherwise hurt and it was thought that he would easily recover in two or three week's time. Pneumonia, however, intervened, affecting the heart and in a few hours at the Larne Hospital he passed away. He leaves a brother and sister at home and also two nephews to mourn his loss, with whom many friends of the district sincerely extend sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Mr. Samuel Bradford, Craiganee, Magheramorne.

Another old member of our Church, Mr. Samuel Bradford, died suddenly at his residence, The Farm, Craiganee, Magheramorne. For some days he had been troubled with a cold, but had gone about as usual. On Wednesday, January 12, however, while sitting at the fire, he began to feel seriously unwell and retired to his room and died on the following day. Mr. Bradford was a member of a numerous family, some of whom are living in the United States. Much sympathy is felt for the remaining brother and sisters at home in their sad loss, and also for those residing in other parts, near and far away. It appears unmistakably that Ballycarry is steadily losing its old-time members, like other country churches. Only a few of the younger generation owing to entirely altered conditions, have been able to stay at home on the farms of their parents.

Mrs. Mary Sturgeon, Tullymore, Killinchy.

We regret to record the death of Mrs. Mary Sturgeon, of Tullymore, a lifelong and devoted member of Killinchy congregation.

The deceased had reached the advanced age of 80 years.

Whilst able she was most regular in her attendance at Church, and up to a short time ago took a genuine interest in all its affairs.

To her two sons and daughter's-in-law, who have been faithful and untiring in their attentions, we would tender our sincere sympathy.

Mr. Thomas Gillen.

Mr. Thomas Gillen, formerly assistant supervisor of the Telegraph Department of the General Post Office, Belfast, died suddenly at his residence, 19 Stranmillis Gardens, on January 12th. He entered the service as a youth almost sixty years ago and rose by successive steps to the position which he held at the time of his retirement in 1929.

As a member of the Special Events staff of the Post Office he attended the Gordon-Bennett motor race and the great meetings of Lord Carson's campaign in 1913-14. He was pre-deceased by his wife, and he leaves one daughter.

S. & J. HEWITT

Carpenters, Builders and General House Repairers,

15c CASTLEREAGH ROAD. BELFAST.

Telephone 57043.

Judges vii, 18:—"When I blow the trumpet, I and all that are with me then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp."

CORRESPONDENCE.

—:o:—

FINANCIAL APPEAL.

The Editor, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian'' Magazine.

10th January, 1940.

Dear Sir,—My letter last month has brought me commendation and approval from several active members of our denomination. I hope they will write to you expressing their views on the subject.

I have received several congregational reports and on perusal, find that outside Comber, Dromore, Holywood, Newry and our Belfast churches, I have really minimised the situation. If the payments made by representatives of our families were omitted we would have only about 4d a week average.

During the Great War generous action by the members of the First Church raised a sum of £600 for the purpose of augmenting the salaries of poorly paid ministers. Conditions are so changed that we cannot look for a renewal of such generosity, but in the whole body of our denomination such a sum might be raised to increase the capital of our Sustentation Fund. In my appeal last year only one church committee made a grant, and only two individuals subscribed. Have we no more respect for our church and its ministers, than to be so niggardly? Ministers themselves cannot make appeal, therefore church committees should seriously consider the matter and bring the whole financial appeal before their congregations. In 1919 the Synod passed the following resolution:

> ''In the year 1920 a small committee of responsible persons shall be formed in each congregation whose duty it shall be to collect annual subscriptions to the fund and forward the same to the Treasurer for investment in the capital sum. This process shall take place year by year and shall be known as the **Free-will Offering** of our people, and at the end of each year the finance committee of the fund shall issue an annual report, taking as its model the annual report of the Orphan Society.''

Why was this resolution not acted upon?

Yours truly,
H. J. F. ORR.

APPEAL FOR COMFORTS.

Dear Editor,—Would you please let me thank the following people who responded to my appeal as Fellowship Secretary.

I wish I could impress the importance of keeping in touch with our young men who are in the forces. If they know that we, in safety at home, are thinking of them and are showing our appreciation of them—in however small a way—it would give them that feeling of belonging to a Church that has a family feeling of affection and thought for them.

The Cigarette fund is badly in need of funds—would the men of our Churches who smoke just send the price of a packet or two of their favourite smokes — the non-smokers could send the price of a tin of sweets for the non-smokers of the men of the forces. Forty-three names have been sent from Holywood, Larne, Ballyhemlin, Comber, First Church, Belfast and Mountpottinger. They are in Malta, Egypt, Irak, France, Khartoun, Great Britain. To all of them the hand of fellowship should be extended.

Subscriptions, however small, could be left with Mrs. Colvin, at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, or sent to Miss Laird, 16 Glandore Avenue, Belfast, or to me. Our young people might like to correspond with some of the men—letters are very much appreciated and so form friendly links.

Mrs. Henderson, Holywood, 5/-; Mrs. and Miss Gardiner, Woollens and 2/6; Mrs. Logan, Ballyclare, 5/-; Miss Hogarth, Ballyclare, 5/-; Mrs. Davies, Larne, .5/-; Mrs. McClure and Mrs Dugan, Comber, 2/6; Mrs. Hall, Downpatrick, Socks.

I do hope I shall have many more people to thank in your next issue.

EDITH DAVIES,
Fellowship Sec.

THE CHURCH OF THE DIVINE UNITY, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The new building was opened on January 20th, by Miss Anne Holt, M.A., of Liverpool, the Rev. Mortimer Rowe, B.A., conducting the dedicating service.

Mr. Ronald P. Jones, M.A., represented the General Assembly in the Public Meeting in the Hall. On Sunday, January 21st, in the morning, the preacher was the minister, the Rev. Herbert Barnes, well-known to us in the North of Ireland, and at 2-30, the Rev. Dr. Alfred Hall, M.A.

The morning service, January 21st, when the Rev. Herbert Barnes preached, was attended by the Right Hon., the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, the High Sheriff, members of the City Council and other Civic representatives. Arrangements were made with a neighbouring Cafe to open specially from 12-30 p.m. to 2 p.m., to cater for a light meal, especially to meet the needs of those attending both services. The building fund with outstanding promises totals £8,584 7s 6d. The Church is dedicated: "In the Love of Truth and in the Spirit of Jesus for the Worship of God and the Service of Man."

— The Unitarian and — Free Christian Men's League.

BELFAST CHAPTER

—:o:—

Meets as announced October to May, inclusive.

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 1/-, and further particulars may be obtained from:—
MR. FRANK A. ROBINSON,
"Kenron,"
Holywood,
Co. Down.

Will our friends who see to the sale of this Magazine, kindly endeavour to get new subscribers.

REVIEWS.

KHASI NEWS, No. 5.

This has been circulated among the congregations, with appeal for help. Leaflets, collecting envelopes, lantern slides and lecture, list of lectures, and further information from the Secretary of the General Assembly, Essex Hall, Essex Street, London, W.C.2.

The Rev. A. Margaret Barr, the missionary, writes:—"Did you ever get up at half-past six in the morning to go to Sunday School? I do, regularly. School begins at 7 or 7-30. Usually grown-ups are not allowed to be present, for their schools are not like ours, with teachers and lessons, but just children's services, conducted by the children themselves. They allow me to go, because they like my stories and the pictures I show them. They call me 'Kong' which means 'big sister.' "

Pictures showing Miss Barr's school group photo of the scholars, "Listening to the Gramophone" and "Playing Marbles," illustrate this news sheet.

We are personally in close touch with educational work throughout India, largely initiated in the first place on a purely voluntary basis by British ladies and gentlemen. One of our ministers, now in England, was Principal of a Buddhist College for some years. Children are taught their own religions at their best. This work, now covering the education of hundreds of thousands, from the infant-school up to the University, has been going on for many years.—[Ed.]

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